

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /058 W

-----055870 100315Z /73

R 100211Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USICA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7366

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USICA FOR EA

SECSTATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION ICA TAICHUNG TAINAN CLOSURE

1. FOLLOWING FULL TEXT OF CHINA POST (ENGLISH-LANGUAGE;  
20,000) MAY 9, 1978 BACK PAGE NEWS STORY AND LETTER TO  
EDITOR ON THE CLOSING OF ICA TAINAN AND TAICHUNG:

2. NEWS STORY - LIBRARY CLOSURE HAS POLITICAL OVERTONES.  
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY CAME CLOSE TO ADMITTING TODAY THAT  
THE CLOSING DOWN OF THE USIS LIBRARIES IN TAINAN AND  
TAICHUNG ON JULY 15 HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH U.S.  
"NORMALIZATION" POLITICS ASIDE FROM BUDGETARY CONSIDER-  
ATIONS.

- NEAL DONNELLY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNICATION AGENCY TAIPEI OFFICE (FORMERLY USIS), SAID  
IN ANSWER TO A CHINA NEWS QUERY THAT BUDGET IS THE MAIN  
REASON FOR CLOSING DOWN THE LIBRARIES.

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- "TERMINATING LIBRARY SERVICE IN TAINAN AND TAICHUNG  
WOULD SAVE US 13 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL COST, OR US DOLS  
150,000 A YEAR," SAID DONNELLY, WHO IS ALSO SPOKESMAN  
FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY.

- HOWEVER, DONNELLY DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY  
THAT POLITICS MIGHT BE BEHIND THE MOVE. WHILE DECLINING

TO CONFIRM THAT SUCH IS THE CASE, HE SAID THAT "ALL THINGS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED."

- HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON WHAT THE "OTHER THINGS" ARE ASIDE FROM BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION.
- IN THE OPINION OF PROF. CHARLES LEE KEETON 3RD OF THE NATIONAL CHENG KUNG UNIVERSITY, THE REAL REASON FOR CLOSING DOWN THE LIBRARIES IS "NORMALIZATION" POLITICS INSTEAD OF MONETARY CONSIDERATION.

3. LETTER TO EDITOR - BUDGET OR POLITICS? MAY 7, 1978.  
TO THE EDITOR: THIS IS A LETTER TO ASK ANYBODY WHO USES THE USIA TAINAN LIBRARY TO PLEASE PROTEST THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF THIS LIBRARY AS OF JULY 15, 1978. IF YOU ARE A CHINESE CITIZEN PLEASE WRITE A NOTE TO U.S. AMBASSADOR LEONARD UNGER, U.S. EMBASSY, TAIPEI, AND ASK HIM TO KEEP THE USIA TAINAN LIBRARY OPEN. OR, IF YOU ARE A U.S. CITIZEN, WOULD YOU PLEASE ALSO WRITE YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE AND ASK HIM TO HELP KEEP THE LIBRARY OPEN?

- A FEW FACTS ON THE CASE. TAINAN AND TAICHUNG USIA ARE TO BE CLOSED AS OF JULY 15, BECAUSE OF LACK OF MONEY IT IS CLAIMED. TAINAN COST EXACTLY US DOLS 23,065 LAST YEAR TO RUN FROM SALARIES TO BOOKS TO MAGAZINES, EVERY-THING\* THE BUILDING THAT THE LIBRARY IS IN IS RENTED
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FROM THE RED CROSS AT ABOUT NT DOLS 7,000 A MONTH - IF THE BUILDING WERE USED BY A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS THE RENT WOULD BE AT LEAST NT DOLS 50,000 A MONTH.

- WHO BENEFITS FROM TAINAN LIBRARY? FIRST, 10,000 NATIONAL CHENG KUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE POTENTIAL USERS, AND MANY OF THEM ACTUALLY USE IT. IN PARTICULAR, THEY USE THE VIDEOTAPES TO LEARN ENGLISH AS WELL AS, SAY, ECONOMICS (FROM MILTON, FRIEDMAN, NOBEL PRIZE WINNER). THE STUDENTS READ THE JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES, WHICH NCKU'S LIBRARY CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO BUY IN ADDITION TO ALL THE THINGS IT ALREADY HAS TO BUY. THE MANY FOREIGN UNIVERSITY CATALOGS ARE A GREAT FAVORITE WITH STUDENTS, AND THEY CAN GET MUCH NEEDED BOOKS AND REFERENCE ITEMS THERE AS WELL. PLUS, IT IS A CLEAN DECENT PLACE TO MEET FRIENDS AND IT DOESN'T COST YOU A FORTUNE.

- UPSTAIRS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LOCAL YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HAS A PLACE TO PRACTICE. AND OF COURSE MANY PERSONS IN THE CITY OF TAINAN USE THE LIBRARY AND ITS FACILITIES. FROM A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS, TAINAN

LIBRARY IS A BARGAIN. SO THE PROBLEMS ARE REALLY NOT BUDGETARY.

- THE REAL PROBLEM IS AS LOCAL PERSONS TOLD ME: IT IS "NORMALIZATION" TIME. AND, TAINAN'S LOSS IS PEIPING'S GAIN\* THE FACT IS THAT THE LIBRARY HAS BEEN HERE FOR AT LEAST 26 YEARS, BUT THAT IS APPARENTLY NOT "NORMAL" ENOUGH FOR SOMEBODY. THE POPULATION TREND OF TAIWAN IS TO THE SOUTH AND EAST, AND WITH A NEW UNIVERSITY TO BE IN KAOHSIUNG, JUST WHERE ARE ALL THESE STUDENTS SUPPOSED TO GET INFORMATION IF THE ALREADY

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SMALL NUMBER OF LIBRARIES IS REDUCED STILL FURTHER?

- I DON'T KNOW THE SITUATION IN TAICHUNG, BUT SURELY THEY COULD AFFORD TO KEEP A READING ROOM OPEN\* ONCE AGAIN, THIS IS "NORMALIZATION" POLITICS AND NOT BUDGETARY.

- THANK YOU FOR ANY HELP THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE TO KEEP THESE LIBRARIES OPEN. MY STUDENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BENEFITED ENORMOUSLY FROM THE TAINAN LIBRARY, AND I WONDER HOW MANY THOUSANDS WILL BE MENTALLY STARVED BY THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF THESE TWO LIBRARIES.

- IT SEEMS LIKE QUITE A HIGH PRICE TO PAY FOR A USIA LIBRARY IN PEIPING.

- SINCERELY, CHARLES LEE KEETON 3RD, PH.D. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGER, NATIONAL CHENG KUNG UNIVERSITY, TAINAN, TAIWAN ROC.

- P.S. I SHOULD ADD TWO SAYINGS. FIRST, ONE BY  
COMEDIAN DICK GREGORY WHO CLAIMS THAT "EVERYTHING IS  
POLITICS THESE DAYS. EVEN EATING BREAKFAST IS A  
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POLITICAL STATEMENT." THE SECOND SAYING WAS ALLEGEDLY  
FIRST NOTED IN A 6,000 YEAR OLD TOMB IN EGYPT: "THE  
SQUEAKING WHEEL GETS THE GREASE."

4. FYI: COST CITED PARAGRAPH TWO KEETON LETTER NOT  
ACCURATE, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH. SOURCE ICA TAINAN LIBRARIAN  
WHO DIVULGED FIGURES, WITHOUT SEEKING APPROVAL BPAO, IN  
REPLY TO QUERY FROM KEETON, A LIBRARY REGULAR. AYERS

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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014